

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 4-9 without prejudice, amend claims 1, 3 and 10-13 and add new claims 14-16 as follows:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a first driving machine having a first drive sheave, the first driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a second driving machine having a second drive sheave, the second driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

first and second counterweights raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

a supporting frame supporting the first driving machine and the second driving machine; and

~~a main rope body~~ suspending means wound around the first and second drive sheaves, the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means suspending the car and the first and second counterweights inside the hoistway.

2. (Original) The elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

the first and second driving machines are disposed horizontally such that axes of rotation of the first and second drive sheaves extend vertically.

3. (Currently amended) The elevator apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means has:

a first main rope having a first end portion connected to the car and a second end portion connected to the first counterweight, the first main rope being wound around the first drive sheave; and

a second main rope having a third end portion connected to the car and a fourth end portion connected to the second counterweight, the second main rope being wound around the second drive sheave.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a first driving machine having a first drive sheave, the first driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a second driving machine having a second drive sheave, the second driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines, the car having mutually opposite first and second side surface portions;

a counterweight raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

~~a main rope body~~ suspending means wound around the first and second drive sheaves, the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means suspending the car and the counterweight inside the hoistway;

a first car return pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, the first car return pulley directing the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means from the first drive sheave toward the first side surface portion;

a first counterweight return pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, the first counterweight return pulley directing the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means from the first drive sheave to the counterweight;

a second car return pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, the second car return pulley directing the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means from the second drive sheave toward the second side surface portion;

a second counterweight return pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, the second counterweight return pulley directing the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means from the second drive sheave to the counterweight;

a first deflection pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, a portion of the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means between the first drive sheave and the first car return pulley being wound around the first deflection pulley;

a second deflection pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, a portion of the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means between the second drive sheave and the second car return pulley being wound around the second deflection pulley,

wherein:

the first and second driving machines are disposed horizontally such that axes of rotation of the first and second drive sheaves extend vertically.

11. (Currently amended) The elevator apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a car suspension sheave mounted to the car; and

a counterweight suspension sheave mounted to the counterweight,

the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means being wound endlessly around the first drive sheave, the first deflection pulley, the first car return pulley, the car suspension sheave, the second car return pulley, the second deflection pulley, the second drive sheave, the second counterweight return pulley, the counterweight suspension sheave, and the first counterweight return pulley.

12. (Currently amended) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a driving machine having a drive sheave, the driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the driving machine;

first and second counterweights raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the driving machine; and

~~a main rope body suspending means wound around the drive sheave, the main rope body suspending means suspending the car and the first and second counterweights inside the hoistway,~~

wherein:

the ~~main rope body suspending means~~ includes:

a first main rope connected to the first counterweight; and

a second main rope connected to the second counterweight; and

the driving machine is disposed horizontally such that an axis of rotation of the drive sheave extends vertically.

13. (Currently amended) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a driving machine having a drive sheave, the driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the driving machine;

a counterweight raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the driving machine;

~~a main rope body~~ suspending means wound around the drive sheave, the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means suspending the car and the counterweight inside the hoistway;

a car suspension sheave mounted to the car, the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means being wound around the car suspension sheave;

a car return pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, the car return pulley directing the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means extending from the drive sheave to the car suspension sheave; and

a counterweight return pulley disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway, the counterweight return pulley directing the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means extending from the drive sheave to the counterweight,

wherein:

the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means has:

a first end portion connected to a rope connecting portion fixed to an upper portion of the hoistway; and

a second end portion connected to the counterweight,

the ~~main rope body~~ suspending means being wound sequentially around the car suspension sheave, the car return pulley, the drive sheave, and the counterweight return pulley from the first end portion; and

the driving machine is disposed horizontally such that an axis of rotation of the drive sheave extends vertically.

14. (New ) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a first driving machine having a first drive sheave, the first driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a second driving machine having a second drive sheave, the second driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

first and second counterweights raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines; and

suspending means wound around the first and second drive sheaves, the suspending means suspending the car and the first and second counterweights inside the hoistway,

wherein the first driving machine and the second driving machine are arranged so as to overlap the car in a vertical projection plane.

15. (New) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a first driving machine having a first drive sheave, the first driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a second driving machine having a second drive sheave, the second driving machine being identical with the first driving machine and disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

first and second counterweights raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines; and

suspending means wound around the first and second drive sheaves, the suspending means suspending the car and the first and second counterweights inside the hoistway,

wherein a contact angle of the suspending means relative to the first drive sheave and a contact angle of the suspending means relative to the second drive sheave are equal to each other.

16. (New) An elevator apparatus comprising:

a first driving machine having a first drive sheave, the first driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of a hoistway;

a second driving machine having a second drive sheave, the second driving machine being disposed in an upper portion of the hoistway;

a car raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

a counterweight raised and lowered inside the hoistway by a driving force from the first and second driving machines;

suspending means wound around the first and second drive sheaves, the suspending means suspending the car and the counterweight inside the hoistway; and



a control apparatus for controlling the first and second driving machines by operating modes including a double operating mode in which the first and second driving machines are both driven simultaneously, and a single operating mode in which only one of the first and second driving machines is driven.